

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A trash can assembly, comprising:  
an outer shell having an upper edge that defines an open upper end;  
a lid having an edge that is pivotably connected to the upper edge of the outer shell by a connector, the lid and the outer shell defining an interior space;  
wherein the connector is positioned inside the interior space and includes:  
a sleeve that is coupled to the upper edge of the outer shell;  
a non-metal tube that is positioned inside the sleeve, the tube having a bore; and  
a shaft received inside the bore of the tube.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, further including an upper support frame coupled to the upper end of the outer shell, and wherein the shaft is coupled to the upper support frame.

3. (Currently Amended) [[The assembly of claim 1,]] A trash can assembly, comprising:  
an outer shell having an upper edge that defines an open upper end;  
a lid having an edge that is pivotably connected to the upper edge of the outer shell by a connector;  
wherein the connector includes:  
a sleeve that is coupled to the upper edge of the outer shell;  
a non-metal tube that is positioned inside the sleeve, the tube having a bore; and  
a shaft received inside the bore of the tube; and  
wherein a longitudinal opening is defined along the sleeve, and the tube has a longitudinal protruding edge which is fitted in the longitudinal opening.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the shaft has a first section and a second section which has a diameter that is greater than the diameter of the first section.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 4, wherein the first section of the shaft is received inside the bore of the tube, with the second section of the shaft positioned outside the bore of the tube.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the tube has an opening positioned along the protruding edge at a location that is adjacent the location of the shaft when the shaft is received inside the bore of the tube so as to expose the shaft from the tube.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the sleeve and the shaft are made of metal.

8-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A trash can assembly, comprising: .  
an outer shell having an upper edge that defines an open upper end, the outer shell defining an interior space;  
a lid having an edge that is pivotably connected to the upper edge of the outer shell; and  
a plurality of rigid inner liners positioned side-by-side and snugly inside [[arranged inside]] the interior space.